

will have a "division-sized force" in Central Europe during a crisis. Equipment for the CAST brigade will be pre-positioned, and new tanks purchased. Negotiations are currently underway to provide Canadian forces with a small logistics base in Europe. Canada is also consulting with the Federal Republic of Germany to expand facilities used by Canadian forces, and to better ensure for their adequate support in wartime.<sup>7</sup>

### Parliamentary Comment

Comment on the Government's decision to shift Canadian Forces commitments from northern Norway to the central front in West Germany intensified in late March and early April 1988. This was followed by indications that two former high-level defence officials had advocated that the opposite course be taken. In March, former Canadian Chief of the Defence Staff, General Gerard Thériault was reported to have stated before a conference of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs that Canada's CAST commitment to Norway was a "valued asset," while its forces in Central Europe meant "next to nothing."<sup>8</sup> The General reportedly advocated that Canada should have pre-positioned equipment in Norway rather than increased its commitment to Central Europe. This was followed in April by stories in the press indicating that former Defence Minister Erik Nielsen had supported a similar policy in work on an earlier version of the Government's Defence White Paper.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid., p.15.

<sup>8</sup> Ottawa Citizen, 28 March 1988, p. A4.

<sup>9</sup> Gwynne Dyer, "Europeans torpedoed Tory plan to withdraw NATO troops," Ottawa Citizen, 14 April 1988, p. A1.